

19th. Sleepless night; he talks of the cat, and attributes his illness to that cause, but still will not speak when spoken to. Bowels constipated; tongue dry and red. Ordered calomel, ten grains, to be taken immediately.

20th. No sleep all night; left eye injected; the spasmodic contractions of the muscles, which at first were confined to the throat, have now extended to the limbs, the elbows being drawn very much backwards towards the spine; the wrists and feet also distorted. Has been very violent during the night, requiring the assistance of four men to hold him, and shouting and struggling incessantly.

We now came to the determination of trying the chloroform, which put him to sleep in about three minutes; he did not awake again for three-quarters of an hour; when he appeared much more calm, recognised his wife, and kissed and embraced her; deglutition better; the bowels had not acted; pulse ninety. To have four ounces of infusion of senna and a blister over the scalp; in the evening we found him much quieter: the bowels had acted; passes his urine and stools involuntarily. The effect of the chloroform was so decided in the morning that we resolved to repeat it, which was accordingly done with the same beneficial effect. The cerebral symptoms, however, returned about one in the morning, and at our visit at ten o'clock on the 21st, we found him a perfect maniac; conjunctivæ of both eyes much suffused; dilatation of pupils; skin cool; no unnatural action about the carotids; spasms of the limbs increased, and extending to the muscles of the spine, producing occasionally a state of opisthotonos. The chloroform was again administered, and he remained very quiet during the day, sleeping at intervals. The chloroform was used again in the evening. The emaciation was very marked, and to a greater extent than we had ever seen it in any other disease of the same duration. He was ordered wine and brandy, with arrow root and beef-tea.

22d. This morning we found him worse again; total deprivation of all his mental faculties. Ordered an ointment of tartar-emetic and croton oil, to be rubbed over the whole extent of the spine. Ice to be applied to the head, and to have the chloroform. In the evening, symptoms somewhat better: chloroform repeated.

23d. Has passed a more comfortable night: the conjunctivæ less suffused; countenance more intelligent; tongue becoming moist and less red; pulse ninety-four; bowels constipated. Ordered one drop of croton oil, every four hours; chloroform repeated.—Evening: appears better in every respect; the bowels have acted. Ordered muriate of morphia, one grain, to be taken immediately; and chloroform.

24th. Had several hours' sleep, and is more sensible; complains of his hands and feet feeling cold. The ice to be discontinued, and to have hot water to the feet. Ordered chloric ether half an ounce, carbonate of ammonia half a drachm, camphor mixture seven ounces and a half. Mix. An ounce to be taken every three hours.—Evening: better in every respect, except that the pulse has got up to 120; this might be attributed to his having had too many of his friends seeing him. Gave the chloroform, and in fifteen minutes we found the pulse had come down to eighty-eight. Repeat the morphia and mixture.

25th. Has had an excellent night; returning intelligence; pulse ninety-four; skin warm; still passes his urine and stools under him; expression of countenance improving. From this time the improvement was so rapid and continuous that I shall not consider it necessary to describe the symptoms daily. The chloroform was administered occasionally, with tonics and stimulants; and in about a fortnight he went into the country, quite well both in mind and body.—*Lancet*, July 29th, 1848.

40. *Use of Chloroform in Insanity.* By Dr. M'GAVIN.—The importance of the subject induces us to give entire the following remarks on cases in the Montrose Lunatic Asylum:—The introduction of chloroform, immediately after the nature of this wonderful agent became known, has constituted the only new feature in what may be styled the purely medical part of the treatment. Its beneficial effects have been conspicuous in many cases in which it has been used during the latter part of the last year. The first two patients selected for experiment with the chloroform, were the most noisy and excited in the establishment. One laboured under acute mania; the other was a decided melancholic. In the first case, all the ordinary and approved means for calming excitement and allaying irritability

had been, for two or three days, steadily persevered in without much benefit. It then occurred to me that chloroform might be tried. The patient was accordingly secured, which, by the way, was not a very easy task, and the inhalation commenced. The first inspiration was succeeded by a struggle; but this resulted more from dread on the part of the patient than some mischief was to befall him than from any other cause. After a few more inspirations, he complained of sickness; and in less than a minute and a half from the commencement of the inhalation, the functions of the brain were completely suspended. He remained in the comatose state for a minute or two after the withdrawal of the vapour. While recovering from his state of unconsciousness, he looked confused, and reeled about the room like a person under the influence of some intoxicating liquor. In a short time he completely recovered from the immediate effects of the chloroform, but its soothing influence was conspicuous for the greater part of the day. He became drowsy—slept a short time—and was afterwards less excited, and more collected and rational than he had been since his admission. The chloroform was exhibited from time to time in this case, and sleep almost invariably followed. The patient ultimately got better. The second patient operated on was a woman possessed of a strong suicidal tendency, who had been moaning and crying incessantly for days and nights without intermission. She had not been observed to sleep for nearly seventy-two hours. The chloroform was exhibited in the usual way, and very soon reduced her to a state of unconsciousness. On recovering, she complained of sickness, and vomited; after which she was, at her own request, placed in bed, where she enjoyed a sound and refreshing sleep for upwards of three hours. So sensible was this patient of the benefit she derived from the chloroform, that, when afterwards agitated and overwhelmed with despair, she would implore the medical superintendent to repeat the exhibition. In this she was often indulged. In the first case alluded to, I have very little doubt that the chloroform had a considerable share in conducing to recovery, or, at least, that it paved the way by suspending the functions of the brain, and thus affording rest to its substance. No doubt the same thing is accomplished in similar cases, and might have followed in this case also, by the exhibition of sedatives and hypnotics; but before sleep is procured in this way, days and weeks sometimes intervene. The rapidity with which the chloroform acts, and the consequent saving of time to the physician, and of nervous energy to the patient, are strong arguments in its favour. It is difficult to say *à priori*, how far the prolonged exhibition of chloroform may be useful in correcting morbid trains of thought in cases of insanity unattended with excitement. Experiments, with a view to the solution of this question, could not but prove interesting.—*Monthly Journ. and Retrospect Med. Sci.*, Oct., 1848, from *Dr. M'Gavin's Report of the Montrose Lunatic Asylum, 1848.*

41. *Insanity cured by Sulphate of Quinine.* By M. PIORRY.—Four cases of mania are reported, in which a complete cure was effected in periods varying from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, by the use of this medicine. The cases were recent and acute; they were characterized by various sensory illusions, and by the occurrence of a paroxysm about the same hour every evening. We give the details of one case.

A woman, thirty-five years of age, was brought into the hospital in a state of furious delirium, which rendered necessary the use of the strait-jacket. She imagined that she heard the voices of several persons constantly talking beside her, and in particular of an individual who had excited her jealousy, and of whom she wished to rush in pursuit. The attendants were obliged to tie her down in bed, and the house-surgeon proposed sending her to the Salpêtrière.

Two days afterwards, M. Piorry saw her at his morning visit, and found her very irritable, but succeeded in getting from her some account of her complaint. Her disease commenced with noises in the ears and imaginary voices, followed by delirium, of which she was herself sensible. All these symptoms were much aggravated at night. She was ordered fifteen grains of quinine; no other treatment. Next day there was no delirium, and the day after she was perfectly well.

These cases are very remarkable from the rapidity with which they were cured. M. Piorry considers the delirium of insanity as often induced by certain abnormal sensations, and functional derangement of the organs of sense, and of other parts